

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Commission**

ITEM

7

DECISION

TOPIC

Contract—Iowa Department of Economic Development Water Quality Advocate

The Department requests Commission approval of a contract in the amount of \$75,000 with the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) for the Water Quality Advocate position.

The contract period will be from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. The source of the funding for this contract is the NPDES Fees Fund. This is the second contract between DNR and DED for the Water Quality Advocate position.

For this contract period the focus of the Water Quality Advocate will be to assist small communities with understanding and complying with their wastewater requirements including applying for their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits and to lead efforts to assist unsewered communities address their wastewater issues.

Additional Information

- ◆ The Water Quality Advocate provides assistance to entities requiring National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit (pursuant to 2006 Iowa Acts, Chapter 1178, Section 27).
- ◆ A focus of the Water Quality Advocate (WQA) is to assist communities in understanding and complying with its wastewater requirement, including applying for its NPDES permit.
- ◆ The WQA focuses efforts towards the unsewered communities initiative.
- ◆ The WQA also serves as an objective source of information and assistance to small businesses, the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).
- ◆ Initially, with the WQA introduction to other state agencies, private associations, communities and businesses, the overall response was welcoming. Some comments included, “Good, Iowa needs this sort of position.”

Outreach and Education

- ◆ Workshops
 - NPDES Permits: The Application Process, wastewater operators-city clerks
 - Stormwater Basics, construction industry
- ◆ Outreach
 - WQA Factsheet

- Unsewered Community Factsheet
- Website http://www.iowalifechanging.com/business/water_quality.html
- Assist internal IDED staff, e.g. permitting requirements, DNR regulations
- Assist Utility Management Organizations
- Assist Business Planning/RFP the State Revolving Fund
- Travel to towns, wastewater facilities, unsewered communities
- ◆ Other Projects
 - Environmental Finance Center
 - 2008 NPDES Workshops
 - Updating the Unsewered Community Priority List
 - 2009 Strategic Plan for Unsewered Communities
- ◆ From July 2007 to April 2008, approximately, 2400 people have utilized the WQA.

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